

IMAGE 1

Ellsworth Kelly
American, Born 1923
Red Blue Green, 1963
83 5/8 x 135 inches
Oil on canvas
Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Jack M. Farris

Ellsworth Kelly was born in 1923 in New York, and began his study of art in Boston in 1946. Kelly also studied art in Paris from 1948-1954, where he made artwork using only primary colors and basic shapes. Upon his return to the United States, Kelly continued using basic shapes and primary colors. Many of the shapes that Kelly used in his paintings were inspired by the shadows of trees and buildings. He was also interested in experimenting with colors to see how different colors appear next to one another.

Red Blue Green is an example of how Kelly used basic colors and shapes in his artwork. This painting includes a basic red shape and a basic blue shape, both of which are on top of a green background. Kelly said that the shapes from this piece came from the shadows of a swing set.

Ellsworth Kelly is considered to be part of the **Minimalist** and **Color Field** movements.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Describe what you see in this painting.
- Can you see the outline of the swing set in this painting? If so, what part of the swing set do you think the artist used to create this painting?
- Are the colors that Kelly used **primary** or **secondary colors**? Which colors are primary and which are secondary?
- What type of **lines** do you see in this painting (horizontal, vertical, or both)?

USE YOUR IMAGINATION

- If you were to paint the shadow of a swing set, which shapes would you use? Would you use the same colors that Kelly used, or would you use different colors? If you would use different colors, which colors would you use?
- Why do you think that Kelly named this painting after the colors that he used rather than after the inspiration for the painting (the swing set)? If you could give this artwork a title, what would it be?



IMAGE 2

Morris Louis
American, 1912
Number 99, 1959-1960
99 x 142 inches
The Cleveland Museum of Art
Acrylic resin on canvas

Morris Louis Bernstein was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1912. He studied at the Maryland Institute of Fine and Applied Arts from 1928-1933, leaving shortly before completing the program. From 1936 to 1940, he lived in New York City and worked as an easel painter for the Works Progress Administration Federal Art Project. During this period, he dropped his last name, Bernstein.

He was introduced to the artist, Helen Frankenthaler in 1953, and was deeply influenced by her method of staining untreated canvas with poured paint. After this meeting, Louis began his first series of “Veil” paintings in 1954, in which he employed this method of pouring paint on untreated canvas, for which Louis is, perhaps, most well known.

Morris Louis is considered to be an American **Abstract Expressionist**.

Abstract Expressionism: Abstract Expressionism is the first major American avant-garde movement. It emerged in New York City in the 1940s. The artists who were considered to be part of this movement, produced paintings that expressed their state of mind and were intended to strike emotional chords in viewers.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Describe what you see in this painting.
- Which **colors** can you find in this work of art? Are they **primary** or **secondary colors**?
- What type of **lines** can you find in this painting?

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

- Do the colors in this painting look similar or different to the colors that Ellsworth Kelly used in his Red Blue Green? How would you describe the similarities or differences in the use of color by these two artists?

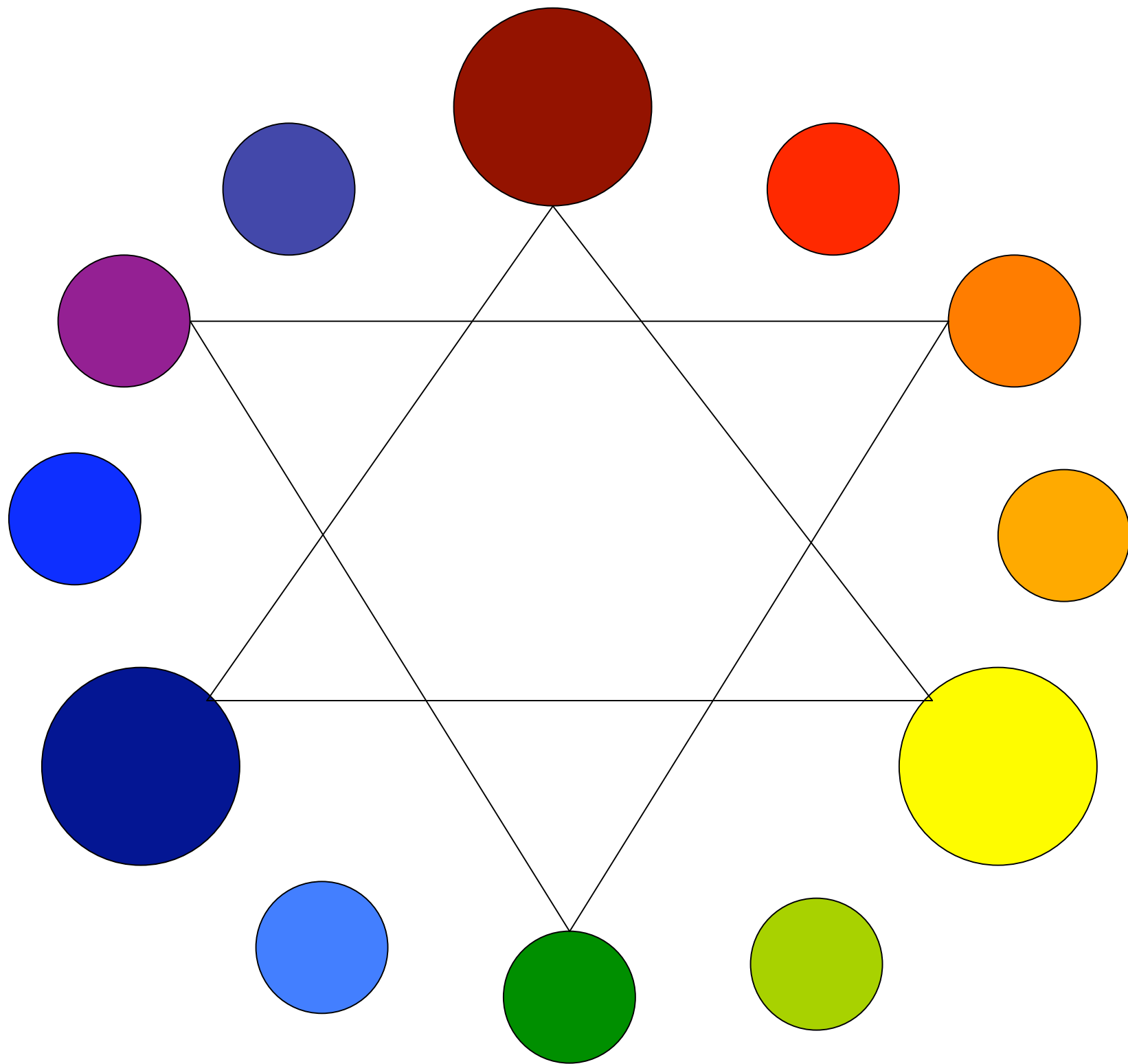


IMAGE 3

Color Wheel

Color wheels show how colors are related, and generally include primary, secondary, and complementary colors.

The **primary colors** are red, blue, and yellow, and cannot be made from other colors. All other colors are made by mixing the primary colors. These three colors are positioned at three equally-spaced points around the color wheel

The **secondary colors** are green, orange, and violet (purple), and are made by mixing two primary colors. Each secondary color is made from the two primary colors closest to it on the color wheel.

The colors that are opposite one another on the color wheel are **complementary colors**. Red and green, blue and orange, and yellow and violet are examples of complementary colors.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- From looking at the image of the color wheel, which primary colors are required to make the secondary color, orange? (yellow + red)
- Which primary colors are required to create green? (yellow + blue)
- Which primary colors are required to create violet? (blue + red)
- From looking at the image of the color wheel, can you find blue’s complementary color?
- Which color is red’s complementary color?
- Which color is violet’s complementary color?



IMAGE 4

Judy Pike
Sisters and the Rift Between Them
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 40 inches

Judy Pike earned her Bachelor’s degree in Art from Stanford University in 1964, and has since completed coursework in alternative photographic techniques and painting at Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges, respectively. Her work has been exhibited in numerous group, juried, and solo shows throughout San Diego, including a group show at Next Door Gallery, a juried show at the Peninsula Art League, and a solo show at the San Diego Art Institute. In 2003, she was named one of fifteen “artists-on-the-rise” by *Watercolor Magic* magazine. Her images typically employ a variety of media and techniques, including contact printing, collage, and watercolor.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Describe the painting in this photograph.
- What is the **subject matter** of this painting?
- What is the **content** of this work of art?
- Why do you think the artist chose to paint this work on two canvases rather than one?

USE YOUR IMAGINATION

- If you were one of the figures in this painting, what would you be thinking and feeling? What would you say to the other figures in this piece?



IMAGE 5

Adam Belt
Sights & Sounds Voyager Satellite
Watercolor on paper
18 x 24 inches

Adam Belt completed his Bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts from the University of California, San Diego in 1997 and his MFA from Claremont Graduate University in 2001.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Describe what you see in this painting.
- What is the **subject matter** and **content** of each of this painting?
- What can you say about the **space** in this painting? Where is the **positive space** in this work? Where is the **negative space**?

Negative space: Negative space refers to spaces that are or represent areas unoccupied by objects.

Positive space: Positive space consists of spaces that are or represent solid objects.



Image 6

Adam Belt
Sights & Sounds PARI Radio Telescopes
Watercolor on paper
18 x 24 inches

Adam Belt completed his Bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts from the University of California, San Diego in 1997 and his MFA from Claremont Graduate University in 2001.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Describe what you see in this painting.
- What is the **subject matter** and **content** of each of this painting?
- What can you say about the **space** in this painting? Where is the **positive space** in this work? Where is the **negative space**?
- What similarities can you find between this image and Image 5? What differences can you find in these two paintings?
- Can you describe the artist’s style of painting by examining this image and Image 6? If so, how would you describe Adam Belt’s style?

Negative space: Negative space refers to spaces that are or represent areas unoccupied by objects.

Positive space: Positive space consists of spaces that are or represent solid objects.



IMAGE 7

Ariel Diaz
Bumper Boats
Mixed-media
48 x 36 inches

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Describe this painting in the photograph.
- Which colors are present in this work? Can you find any **primary colors**? Can you find any **secondary colors**?
- What materials do you think the artist used to create this painting?
- Describe the **texture** of this artwork. Does it look smooth or rough? If you could touch the surface of this work, how do you think it would feel to you?
- What type of **lines** can you find in this painting? Are there curved lines or straight lines?



Image 8

May-Ling Martinez
Stacked Forms
Mixed-media
9 x 5 x 5 feet

May-Ling Martinez was born and raised in Puerto Rico and is currently living and working in San Diego. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Communications and Visual Arts from Sacred Heart University in 1996 and her MFA in Sculpture from San Diego State University. Her work has been exhibited in numerous juried, group, and solo shows. In 2006-2007, she was awarded the San Diego Art Prize by the San Diego Artist Network and the L Street Gallery. Her work primarily consists of mixed-media installations, sculptures and collages that function as triggers to evoke memories.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Describe this sculptural installation.
- What materials did the artist use to create this work?
- Why do you think the artist used these materials to create a work of art?
- What **shapes** can you find in this installation?

USE YOUR IMAGINATION

- If you could create your own installation using everyday objects, what materials would you use? How would you use them to create a work of art?

Installation art: Installation art uses sculptural materials and other media, such as everyday and natural materials, video and sound, to modify the way we experience a particular space. It can be created in museum and gallery spaces, as well as public and private spaces.